

## REGION 2—GENESEE

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This summer could be described as slow. There was a lack of consistent coverage of good birding locations. Again, without the Atlas project there seemed to be fewer individuals engaged in summer birding or reporting sightings. Still, there were some summer highlights.

June started the summer season out with humid and wet conditions. The average temperature of 66.8° F was 1° above normal. There was 50% of the possible sunshine compared to the average of 64%. Given the cloud cover, it was also a wet month, with precipitation 2.58" above normal at 5.94". It was the 10<sup>th</sup> wettest June in the 140 years of weather data. There were 17 days of rain, but it often fell during the night leaving the days good for outdoor activity. July was consistently warm and mainly dry. The average temperature of 73.6° was 2.79° above normal, making it the 22<sup>nd</sup> warmest month in 139 years. There was a stretch of 22 days with temps 80+ degrees and four days in the 90s. The warmest day was on the 7<sup>th</sup>, when the thermometer reached 94°. It was the warmest day locally in three years. Possible sunshine was about normal at 69%. Most of the month was dry, but four days of thunderstorms and heavy rains brought the total precipitation to 5.70", nearly double the average. August was a fine summer month with warm, dry weather. At 2° warmer than usual, August's average temperature of 71.0° made for a pleasant month. 20 days reached 80° or higher and two days reached 90°. The precipitation of 2.68" was 0.86" below normal. The rainfall was scattered throughout the month, with no prolonged periods of rain. Sunshine at 61% of possible was a few points below the norm. Except for the few really hot days, it was good weather to be out birding.

The waterfowl picture for the summer was pretty dismal. There were limited reports of the usual summering divers, and uncommon puddle ducks were limited to a couple of Green-winged Teal at RIT and some early migrants at Hamlin Beach. Trumpeter Swans continued to breed in the area, with the Atlantic Avenue pair producing young and the Savannah birds also with

cygnets. With William Symonds time at Hamlin Beach being limited due to illness, the coverage at Hamlin Beach was sporadic. Observers commented on the lack of movement of waterfowl and loons. There were no loon reports in June and only a few Common Loons in July and August. Andrew Guthrie saw the first Red-necked Grebe of the season on 30 July, and by the end of August there were multiple sightings. Double-crested Cormorant numbers were down. One of the highlights of the summer was an American White Pelican seen for two days in June in Byron.

It has been a good year for Black Vultures, and July was no exception with two being found by Mike and Joann Tetlow in Perinton in the company of Turkey Vultures. On 10 June, Dave Tetlow observed a Mississippi Kite diving on a Bald Eagle over his home. Summering Osprey numbers continue to build, with new nesting sites located in Avon and Perinton. The 17 Bald Eagles counted by Mike Tetlow at Braddock Bay on 19 June were a very good June total. Merlins have bred in Rochester in recent years. This year there were sightings during much of June, but no further details were obtained. Peregrine Falcons fledged two young from the new downtown Rochester nest box. The continued presence of Sandhill Cranes near Taylor Marsh suggests breeding but this has yet to be confirmed. The Savannah pair produced two colts, but they were not observed much into June.

It was a poor summer for shorebirds in general. Habitat was generally scarce and the continuous cleaning of the shore at Ontario Beach left little in the way of food for any passing shorebirds. Species totals were down and numbers were low. The only highlights were the Am. Avocet observed by Bill Symonds and Mike Davids at Hamlin Beach on 13 July, a good number of Whimbrel sightings, and Red Knot and Buff-breasted Sandpiper in August. In addition, a Long-billed Dowitcher was observed by Andrew Guthrie at Hamlin Beach on 31 July. The noteworthy gull reports included an adult Sabine's Gull off Lighthouse Point in the town of Greece by Jessie Barry and Chris Wood on 22 August and two reports of Black-headed Gull from Hamlin Beach. Other gull highlights included a Little Gull at Hamlin Beach and scattered reports of Lesser Black-backed Gull. The controversial Ring-billed Gull colony on the roof of an abandoned store in Batavia was eventually destroyed. The Caspian Tern totals of 100 at Sodus Point and 112 at Point Breeze were the only real concentrations. Five Forster's Terns at Braddock Bay were a good total for June.

The Eurasian Collared-Doves in Hamlin and Parma continued to be found sporadically throughout the summer months. A White-winged Dove appeared at the Marino residence in Penfield on 19 July and continued through the season, providing the second record for the Region. Cuckoo reports were okay but not very widespread. Common Nighthawks were reported this year in July, a surprise with no known breeding in the Region in recent years. Whip-poor-will was unreported.

With no breeding bird studies going on and a weak late migration, the passerine picture has been more difficult to assess. There were few highlights or trends to look at. The last migrant Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were at BBBO on 3 June. An Acadian Flycatcher found by Norma Platt in Webster was in a new

location. A **Western Kingbird** seen and photographed by a single observer in Webster on 19 June was the first inland June record for the State. An attempt by others to relocate it was unsuccessful. The usual late migration of thrushes in early June was weak. There were few warbler highlights or surprises. Golden-winged Warbler continues to be scarce, so the individual at Manitou on 25 June was noteworthy. The Tennessee Warblers seen in July were possibly record early return migrants. A Bay-breasted Warbler on 3 June and a Blackpoll on 17 June were typical late spring migrants. The number of nesting Hooded Warbler reports continues to increase.

One sparrow report of note is the continued nesting of Clay-colored Sparrow in Hamlin. The Henslow's Sparrows discovered in the Geneseo area by Jim Kimball were the only reports for the Region this year. Observers reported good numbers of Baltimore and Orchard Orioles.

June's 167 species total was 10.5 below the 10-year average; July's 172 species 9.2 above the 10-year average; and August's 188 species 11.1 above the 10-year average. The year's species total of 272 through season's end was just slightly below the 10-year average of 273.2.

## CONTRIBUTORS

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## ABBREVIATIONS

A – T Avon, LIVI; BB – Braddock Bay, MONR; C – Conesus, LIVI; CU – T Cuylerville, LIVI; EP – Ellison Park, T Penfield, MONR; DE – Durand Eastman Park, MONR; G – T Greece, MONR; GE – T Geneseo, LIVI; H – T Hamlin; HA – High Acres Trail, T Perinton, MONR; HB – Hamlin Beach State Park, MONR; I – T Irondequoit, Summerville Pier, MONR; M – Manitou Beach area,

MONR; NY – nest with young; NE – nest; OB – Ontario Beach, Charlotte, MONR; PB – Point Breeze, ORLE; PE – T Perinton, MONR; R – C Rochester, MONR; RIT – Rochester Institute of Technology Swamps, MONR; S – T Savannah, WAYN; SP – Sodus Point, WAYN; TM – Taylor Marsh, ONTA; W – T of Webster, MONR.

#### WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

**Trumpeter Swan:** 2 ad & cyg Atlantic Ave, WAYN 17 Jun; max 13 MAC 6 Jun; 2ad, 3 yng S all Jul (mob); 1-7 MAC all Aug; 2ad, 4yng S all Aug.

**Wood Duck:** max 35 HA 2 Aug.

**Gadwall:** arr 16 Jul.1 HB.

**Am. Wigeon:** arr 1 HB 16 Jul.

**Am. Black Duck:** 1 HB 29 Jul.

**Blue-winged Teal:** 1 HB 7 Jun.

**N. Shoveler:** arr T Penfield 29 Aug.

**N. Pintail:** arr 1 G, H 26 Aug.

**Green-winged Teal:** 2 RIT 23 Jun, 6 Jul; arr 5 HB 30 Jul.

**Greater Scaup:** 1m HB 20 Jul.

**White-winged Scoter:** arr 2 HB 19 Aug.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** arr 3 HB 28 Aug.

**Com. Loon:** 1 HB 4,19 Jul.

**Red-necked Grebe:** arr 2 HB 30 Jul; 1 HB 13 Aug; 6 HB 18 Aug; 1 HB 26 Aug; 5 HB 28 Aug; 2 HB 31 Aug.

**AM. WHITE PELICAN:** 1 T Byron, GENE 23-24 Jun (sev).

**Double-crested Cormorant:** max 115 HB 26 Aug.

**Least Bittern:** 1 NE (5 eggs) TM 8 Jun (LB).

**BLACK VULTURE:** 2 PE 20 Jul (M&JT).

#### HAWKS – ALCIDS

**Osprey:** 1 C 17 Jun (EH); 1NY A 18 Jun, 18 Jul (JK), on Genesee River; 1 NY PE 19 Jun, 19 Jul (MT).

**MISSISSIPPI KITE:** 1 Hogan Point, T Greece 10 Jun (DT).

**Bald Eagle:** max 17 BB 19 Jun.

**N. Goshawk:** 1 BB 5 Aug (DT); 1 BB 17 Aug (DT).

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** 2 BB 17 Aug (DT).

**Red-tailed Hawk:** max 156 17 Aug.

**Peregrine Falcon:** NY R all Jun; 3-4 R all Jul.

**Sandhill Crane:** 2 T Richmond, ONTA 22-24 Jun (KK, LB); 2 S 3 Jul (mob); 2 TM all Jul (mob); 2 A 12-26 Jul (MW, JK); 1 T Rush, MONR 24 Jul (MZ); max 5 S 13 Aug (DK).

**Black-bellied Plover:** last 2 SP 13 Jun; arr 15 GE 15.

**Am. Golden-Plover:** arr 4 GE 15 Aug.

**Semipalmated Plover:** last 2 SP 13 Jun; arr 1 HB 7 Jul.

**Killdeer:** max 100+ CU 4 Aug.

**AM. AVOCET:** 1 HB 13 Jul (MD, WS).

**Solitary Sandpiper:** arr 1 T Macedon, WAYN, RIT 6 Jul.

**Greater Yellowlegs:** last 1 G 10 Jun; arr 1 RIT 6 Jul.

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr 1 H 2 Jul.

**Upland Sandpiper:** arr 8 GE 20 Jul; max 7 GE 1 Aug; 3 H 1 Aug.

**Whimbrel:** arr 1 HB 9 Jul (DT); 1 SP 14 Jul (M&JT); 1 HB 9 Aug (RS); 1 T Wolcott, WAYN 16 Aug (MS); 1 HB 28 Aug (AGu, RG); 1 I 31 Aug (JLi).

**Red Knot:** 1 HB 28 Aug (DT, GL, JP); 1 BB 28-30 Aug (KG).

**Sanderling:** arr 1 SP 25 Jul; max 7 HB 28 Aug.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** max 29 G 1 Jun; arr 1 HB 7 Jul.

**Least Sandpiper:** last 1 HA 2 Jun; max 50 CU 2 Aug.

**Baird's Sandpiper:** arr 2ad HB 27 Jul.

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** arr 5 CU 20 Jul.

**Dunlin:** last 1 G 1 Jun; arr 1 CU 23 Aug.

**Stilt Sandpiper:** arr 4 CU 19 Jul; 2 CU 23 Aug.

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** arr 1 CU 23 Aug (JK).

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** arr 1 S 8 Aug.

**Long-billed Dowitcher:** arr 1 HB 31 Jul (AGu).

**SABINE'S GULL:** 1 G 22 Aug (JBA, CWo).

**BLACK-HEADED GULL:** 1 imm HB 27 Aug (DT); 1 imm HB 28 Aug (DT, GL, JP).

**Little Gull:** arr 1ad HB 30 Jul (AG, R&SS).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** 1 ad HB 13 Aug (RS); 1 imm HB 18-19 Aug (RS).

**Caspian Tern:** max 112 PB 25 Aug.

**Black Tern:** 1 HB 28 Aug (DT, GL, JP).

**Forster's Tern:** max 5 BB 23 Jun.

**LONG-TAILED JAEGER:** arr 1 HB 21 Aug (DT).

**jaeger species:** 1 HB 28 Aug (AGu, RG).

#### PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

**Eurasian Collared-Dove:** 1-2 all summer, PA, H (sev).

**WHITE-WINGED DOVE:** 1 PE 19-31 Aug (C&PM), 2<sup>nd</sup> Regional record.

**Com. Nighthawk:** 1 G 14 Jun (KG); 1 H 27 Jun (AGu); 1 G 10 Jul (KG); 1 G 30 Jul (KG); max 10 EP 30 Aug (DS).

**Chimney Swift:** max 50 EP 30 Aug.

## **FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS**

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** max 8b M 3 Jun;  
arr 1b M 24 Aug.

**WESTERN KINGBIRD:** 1 W 19 Jun (TC),  
photos, 2<sup>nd</sup> Regional record and 1<sup>st</sup> inland Jun  
record for State.

**Philadelphia Vireo:** arr 1b M 25 Aug.

**FISH CROW:** 1 G 12 Jul (KG).

**Purple Martin:** max 91b G 29 Jun.

**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** last 1b M 3 Jun;

**Swainson's Thrush:** last 1 HB 1 Jun; arr 1b M  
27 Aug.

**Am. Pipit:** arr 1 H 5 Aug (DT), record early.

**Cedar Waxwing:** max 1060 HB 21 Aug (DT).

## **WARBLERS**

**Golden-winged Warbler:** 1b M 25 Jun.

**“LAWRENCE’S” WARBLER:** 1b M 3 Jun  
(BBBO); Rush 24 Jun (KH), same site where  
one found last year.

**Tennessee Warbler:** arr 1 G 10 Jul (DT),  
record early if migrant; 1 G 12 Jul (KG).

**Nashville Warbler:** arr 1b M 23 Aug.

**Yellow Warbler:** max 28b M 27 Jul, LOW for  
date.

**Cape May Warbler:** arr 1b M 27 Jul; 1 G 18  
Aug.

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** last 1 G 2 Jun; arr 10  
DE 28 Aug (AGa).

**Blackpoll Warbler:** last 1 G 17 Jun; arr 1b M  
23 Aug.

**Connecticut Warbler:** 1b M 26 Aug (BBBO),  
record early.

**Wilson's Warbler:** arr 1b M 21 Aug.

**Canada Warbler:** arr 1b M 21 Aug.

## **TOWHEES – WEAVERS**

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** 2 H all Jun; 1 H 10  
Jul; 1 G 18 Aug.

**Henslow's Sparrow:** 2+ GE 8-11 Aug (JK,  
JLa).

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** arr 1 G 27 Aug.

**Bobolink:** max 120 CU 28 Aug.

**YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:** fem  
Savannah (Van Dyne Spoor) 16 Jul (CW).

**Pine Siskin:** 1 HB 4 Aug.